

prohibiting forced labor exports, at all levels of the Chinese government and Chinese prison system; and

(D) vigorously reform the Chinese political, judicial, penal, and economic systems so that Chinese citizens are not jailed for their political and religious beliefs, all Chinese citizens accused of crimes receive fair and open trials, Chinese prisoners are adequately compensated for their work, and workplace conditions in Chinese prisons are safe and humane; and

(2) urges the Government of Hong Kong, and the governments of other nations through which Chinese products are transhipped, to prohibit the importation of Chinese forced labor products and to investigate thoroughly trading companies suspected of dealing in prison-made goods.

Agreed to November 21, 1991.

Nov. 23, 1991

[H. Con. Res. 188]

SYRIAN JEWS—DENIAL OF RIGHTS

Whereas the estimated 4,000 Jews in Syria are deprived of their internationally recognized human rights to freedom of emigration and movement;

Whereas Syrian Jews who wish to leave the country must post an onerous monetary deposit and leave family members behind as assurance for their return;

Whereas the restrictions on emigration and movement on Syrian Jews violate the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Syria is a signatory;

Whereas Syrian Jews are restricted in the extent of their contact with their families outside Syria;

Whereas the Syrian secret police (Mukhabarat) engage in 24 hour a day surveillance of the Jewish quarter in Damascus, keep a file on every Jewish person, monitor all contacts between Jews and foreigners, and read mail and wiretap phone conversations of Syrian Jews;

Whereas some members of the Syrian Jewish community have been arrested on mere suspicion of intention to leave Syria and are imprisoned without trial, often tortured, and held incommunicado;

Whereas families of those Syrian Jews who succeed in fleeing the country are subject to imprisonment and torture;

Whereas there are at present 6 Syrian Jews in prison for attempting to leave Syria, 2 of which have been incarcerated since 1987; and

Whereas Syrian President Hafez al-Assad has ignored the repeated efforts of the United States President, the State Department, and Members of Congress to secure the freedom of emigration for the Syrian Jewish community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) condemns Syria's continuing denial of Syrian Jews' internationally recognized rights to freedom of emigration and movement and calls upon the Syrian Government to—

(A) immediately grant Syrian Jews the right to emigrate freely without imposing any tax, levy, fine, or other fee (other than the standard fee for administrative expenses); and

(B) release all Syrian Jewish prisoners who are imprisoned for their attempts to exercise their internationally recognized rights to freedom of emigration and movement;

(2) urges the President to encourage the allies and trading partners of the United States to make similar pleas to the Syrian Government on behalf of Syrian Jews' right to emigrate freely; and

(3) urges the President to seek a United Nations investigation on the present condition of Syrian Jews and the status of respect for internationally recognized human rights in Syria.

Agreed to November 23, 1991.

MIDDLE EAST—PEACE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Nov. 26, 1991

[H. Con. Res. 226]

Whereas Israel, its Arab neighbors, and the Palestinian people stand to gain the most from peace, which can be achieved only through direct negotiations;

Whereas President Bush declared, in his March 6, 1991, address to the Nation before a joint session of Congress, that any solution to the Middle East conflict must provide for security and recognition for all states in the region, including Israel, and for the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, thus fulfilling "the twin tests of fairness and security";

Whereas on October 18, 1991, Secretary of State James A. Baker III and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin issued invitations to a Middle East peace conference to begin in Madrid, Spain, on October 30, 1991;

Whereas on the 30th of October 1991, in Madrid, Spain, a peace conference was convened for the purpose of launching direct bilateral negotiations leading to a comprehensive peace settlement that includes normalization of relations, bilateral peace treaties, full diplomatic relations, and cooperation on regional issues;

Whereas this conference involved the first-ever direct talks between Israel and all of its Arab neighbors;

Whereas cooperation on regional issues is an essential component of a peace settlement;

Whereas the United States is committed to safeguarding Israel's security, recognizing the legitimate political rights of Palestinian people, and achieving an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict through a two-track approach of direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states and Israel and the Palestinian people, based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338; and

Whereas the resumption of full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union has made it possible for the Soviet Union to play a constructive role in the peace process: Now, therefore, be it